



Minute by Minute



North Carolina Association of County Clerks

July 2007

Editor: Amanda Jones, Randolph County

A Message from the President

Dear Clerks:

I would like to thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your President. I appreciate the confidence you have placed in me and will strive to do my best. I look forward to working with each of you. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Past President, Libby Corn, for the great job she did in leading the Clerks' Association last year.

It was good to see many of you at our Annual Conference in Brunswick County. I would like to extend a special thank you to Debby Gore, Host Clerk, and Margie Stephenson, Deputy Clerk, for the tremendous job they did in planning and hosting a wonderful conference.

Congratulations to Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board in Buncombe County, who received the 2007 Howard Holly Outstanding Clerk of the Year Award. Kathy is most deserving of this honor.

I am happy to announce that the regional workshops have been scheduled by our Program Committee Chair, Linda Hardison. They are as follows:

Piedmont – October 19 - Anson County

Western – October 26 – Caldwell County

Eastern – November 2 – Wayne County

I would like to express appreciation to each of the host clerks, Bonnie Huntley, Kathy Myers, and Marcia Wilson, for volunteering to hold these workshops. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the workshop of your choice.

I have been working on committee assignments and have contacted many of you to ask if you would be willing to serve. Thank you for your positive responses. (A list of the committees for 2007-2008 is on page 4.)

Our next business meeting will be held during the NC Association of County Commissioners' Annual Conference in Fayetteville. The meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Friday, August 17 at the Crown Center.

Again, thanks for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you in Fayetteville. Have a wonderful summer!

Brenda B. Hunter, President

A Heartfelt Thank You to the County Clerks

Debby and Margie, along with others helping with this year's conference, are to be commended for a great job. It was a great place, beautiful weather, and wonderful company. I enjoyed the MMC class and even enjoyed the fashion show before which I had dreaded immensely. But, with the great help from the ladies at the boutique, my 15 minutes of fame as a model wasn't nearly as bad as I thought it would be.

I really, really hate that I got sick and was unable to be with you and attend the remainder of the conference, so I'm already looking forward to next year's event.

Many thanks for your thoughts and prayers during my illness. Special thanks to those who visited me and offered help; and to Debby and Diane who stayed with me at the hospital, tended to me at the hotel, and got medicines and things I needed. We have a special group and I am glad to be a member. The flower arrangement you sent home with me is gorgeous and it is now in one of my bedrooms where it made a beautiful display. Again, thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and your prayers.

~Kathy Myers, Caldwell County Clerk

CLERKS IN THE NEWS



Congratulations to CHERYL IVEY, Randolph County Clerk, on the marriage of her son, Josh, to Kelly Ellis on 6/16. (See picture of Josh & Kelly Ivey at left)

Congratulations to AMANDA JONES, Randolph County Deputy Clerk, on her engagement to John Griffin on 4/19. Amanda & John are planning a May 2008 wedding. (See picture of Amanda & John at right)

Good luck to John Griffin, fiancé of AMANDA JONES, Randolph County Deputy Clerk, who is deploying to Iraq for 6 months this August. John is a USMC Corporal. Please pray for his safe return.



Condolences to GAYNELL LEE, Lee County Clerk, on the passing of her mother on 6/18. Be sure to keep GAYNELL and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations to Cody Gore, daughter of DEBBY GORE, Brunswick County Clerk, who graduated from high school on 6/9 with honors. Cody received the Female Athlete of the Year Award along with the Coaches Award in basketball and softball and First Team All Conference in softball. She plans to pursue a degree in Physical Therapy. This summer, she is the mate on a Parasail Boat at Holden Beach and Ocean Isle Beach; so, if any of you come to the South Brunswick Islands for vacation, look her up and take a ride...it's lots of fun!

Welcome to DENISE KIDD, the new Wake County Deputy Clerk!

Good luck to Alex Morton, son of LAURA MORTON, Moore County Clerk, who is traveling to Jamaica on a mission's trip 6/26-7/3.

Congratulations to KATHY MYERS, Caldwell County Clerk, who was recently elected to serve the 2007-08 term as president of the American Business Women's Association, Caldwell Charter Chapter. KATHY has served various offices on the Chapter's Executive Board, but this is her first term as president. She looks forward to the rewarding challenges of this office and her work with fellow members in not only raising money for scholarship awards to students needing financial assistance but also the friendships and networking with the great diversity of professional women in the Chapter. During the meeting on 6/28, Chapter members were pleased to award a total of \$12,000 to sixteen very deserving recipients.

Congratulations to Diana Davis, daughter of MELINDA DAVIS, Carteret County Deputy Clerk, who graduated from West Carteret High School on 6/8. Diana plans to attend Appalachian State University to study Business & Art.

Condolences to LIBBY CORN, Henderson County Clerk, on the loss of her grandmother in May. She was 103 years old.

LIBBY CORN & her husband, Benny, are going to Japan next month for Mizue's wedding. Mizue lived with them for 10 months about 10-12 years ago as a foreign exchange student. They have kept in touch and she came back to visit them about 3-4 years ago. She is getting married 7/28 in a Buddhist Temple in Kyoto.

Clerks Honor Buncombe's Hughes, Induct Davie's Hunter as President



Harnett County Clerk to the Board Kay Blanchard (left), the 2006 Outstanding Clerk of the Year, presented the 2007 award to Buncombe County Clerk Kathy Hughes. (Photos by Jason King)

the award, said Hughes is exemplary of a public servant, taking on additional roles within the county – such as public information officer – and dedicating hours of work to the state association as first a board member and then in all five officers' positions.

"She has no fear of change," Blanchard said. "In fact, she thrives on challenges."



Libby Corn of Henderson County wrapped up her term as 2006-07 president.

Serving as president of the clerks association is certainly a challenge. Outgoing President Elizabeth Corn of Henderson County recognized that both her Board of Commissioners and her family had to "overlook" a few things in order for her to fulfill the commitment.

Corn passed the president's gavel on to Davie County Clerk Brenda Hunter. In addition, Martin County's Linda Hardison was sworn in as vice president, Caldwell County's Kathy Myers was sworn in as secretary, and Richmond County's Marian Savage was sworn in as treasurer.

Carteret County's Jeannette Deese, Brunswick County's Debby Gore, Warren County's Angelena Kearney-Dunlap, Guilford County's Effie Varitimidis and Wayne County's Marsha Wilson are serving as 2007-08 board members.

Gore and Deputy Clerk Margie Stephenson hosted the 20th Annual Conference at Sunset Beach in Brunswick County. Gore, along with Board of Commissioners Vice Chairman Phil Norris and others, put their musical talents on display to provide

entertainment at the banquet.

The Clerks' also honored three recently retired clerks – Cabarrus County's Susie Bonds, Cleveland County's Wanda Crotts and Wake County's Gwen Reynolds – as lifetime members, and presented six others – Donna Baker (Orange), April Byrd (formerly of Johnston), Ann Clark (Ashe), Marilyn Collins (Chatham), Debby Gore (Brunswick) and Kimberly Woodard (Pitt) – with Certified Municipal Clerk nameplates.

– Jason King, NCACC (www.nccountyclerks.org)

After years of leadership in the North Carolina Association of County Clerks, Kathy Hughes took center stage at the organization's annual awards banquet April 21 to receive the Outstanding Clerk of the Year honor for 2007.

Typical of any clerk to the board, she refused to let the honor go to her head.

"To see the ones who have gone before me and received it, I think, 'it couldn't be me, because I'm not worthy,'" Hughes said.

Those who have worked with the longtime Buncombe County clerk know better.

Commissioner Bill Stanley, a past president of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners, credited Hughes with keeping the Buncombe County board straight.

"If we have something come up, we'll look at Kathy. If she gives us a nod, we can do it, and if she does anything else, we've got to have some lawyers," he said. "This lady runs our county, there's no doubt about it."

Harnett County Clerk Kay Blanchard, the 2006 winner of



Davie County Clerk Brenda Hunter is sworn in as 2007-08 president by the NCACC's Ed Wooters (right) with assistance from Hunter's husband, Eugene (center).

Margie and I want to thank everyone who attended the Conference in April. A special thanks to the ones who participated in the skits (you all were hilarious), the fashion show (you all were beautiful) and line dancing class, which proved that most of us didn't have enough feet to do all those steps! Thanks for all the wonderful door prizes and goody bags and for participating so willingly! CLERKS ROCK!! ~Debby Gore, Brunswick County Clerk

NC ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY CLERKS
2007-2008 Committees

Nominating Committee

Libby Corn, Chair, Henderson County
Marcia Wilson, Wayne County
Laura Morton, Montgomery County
Brenda Hunter, Davie County

Membership Committee

Kathy Myers (W), Chair, Caldwell County
Jamie Starnes (W), Alexander County
Gaynell Lee (P), Lee County
Nancy Litaker (P), Stanly County
Gwen Bryan (E), Craven County
Deva Holt (E), Johnston County

Budget Committee

Marian Savage, Chair, Richmond County
Kathy Myers, Caldwell County
Brenda Hunter, Davie County

Professional Development Committee

Gwen Bryan, Chair, Craven County
Marcia Wilson, Wayne County
Effie Varitimidis, Guilford County
Jean Moore, Iredell County
Shelia Schult, New Hanover County

Site Selection Committee

Jeanette Deese, Chair, Carteret County
Gwen Bryan, Craven County
Margie Stephenson, Brunswick County
Kathy Cayton, Pamlico County

Homepage Administrator

Bonnie Huntley, Anson County

Newsletter Editor

Amanda Jones, Randolph County

Door Prize Committee

Gaynell Lee, Chair, Lee County
Jean Moore, Iredell County
Jeanette Deese, Carteret County
Diane Philyaw, Caldwell County

Goody Bag Committee

Bonnie Huntley, Chair, Anson County
Marian Savage, Richmond County
Laura Morton, Montgomery County

Outstanding Clerk Committee

Kathy Hughes, Chair, Buncombe County
Kay Blanchard, Harnett County
Susan Banks, Wake County
Faye Fuller, Person County
Pam Robertson, Rockingham County

Program Committee

Linda Hardison, Chair, Martin County
Brenda Hunter, Davie County
Kathy Myers, Caldwell County
Bonnie Huntley, Anson County
Marcia Wilson, Wayne County
Ann Clark, Ashe County
Kathy Hughes, Buncombe County
Libby Corn, Henderson County
Gwen Bryan, Craven County

Scholarship Committee

Brenda Hunter, Chair, Davie County
Lynn West, Union County
Libby Corn, Henderson County
Marian Savage, Richmond County
Debby Gore, Brunswick County

Records Retention Committee

Kathy Myers, Chair, Caldwell County
Misty Deans, Bertie County
Crystal Maurer, Guilford County

Scrapbook Committee

Linda Hardison, Chair, Martin County
Kathy Myers, Caldwell County
Marcia Wilson, Wayne County
Bonnie Huntley, Anson County

Historian

Libby Corn, Henderson County

Registration Committee

Kathy Hughes, Buncombe County
Stacey Keith, Buncombe County
Ann Clark, Ashe County

Hospitality Committee

Sandra Sublett, Chatham County
Marilyn Collins, Chatham County
Linda Revels, Hoke County
Gainer Cummings, Lumber River COG

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

The Desks ... thank God for Teachers

Back in September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she took all of the desks out of the classroom.

The kids came into first period and there were no desks. They obviously looked around and said, "Ms. Cothren, where's our desks?" And she said, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn them."

They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades."

"No," she said.

"Maybe it's our behavior."

And she told them, "No, it's not even your behavior."

And so they came and went in the first period, still no desks in the classroom. Second period, same thing, third period too. By early afternoon television news crews had gathered in Ms. Cothren's class to find out about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of the classroom.

The last period of the day, Martha Cothren gathered her class. They were at this time sitting on the floor around the sides of the room. And she says, "Throughout the day no one has really understood how you earn the desks that sit in this classroom ordinarily." She said, "Now I'm going to tell you."

Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it, and as she did 27 U.S. veterans, wearing their uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. And they placed those school desks in rows, and then they stood along the wall. And by the time they had finished placing those desks, those kids, for the first time perhaps in their lives, understood how they earned those desks.

Martha said, "You don't have to earn those desks. These guys did it for you. They put them out there for you, but it's up to you to sit here responsibly to learn, to be good students and good citizens, because they paid a price for you to have that desk, and don't ever forget it."

Friends, I think sometimes we forget that the freedoms that we have are freedoms not because of celebrities. The freedoms are because of ordinary people who did extraordinary things, who loved this country more than life itself, and who not only earned a school desk for a kid at the Robinson High School in Little Rock, but who earned a seat for you and me to enjoy this great land we call home, this wonderful nation that we better love enough to protect and preserve with the kind of conservative, solid values and principles that made us a great nation.

This is taken from a speech given by former Arkansas governor and potential presidential candidate Mike Huckabee at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, D.C. on 3/2/07. It describes events in Cothren's Military History class in 2005. The Veterans of Foreign Wars chose Cothren as a Teacher of the Year in Arkansas for 2005-2006.

Let's Say Thanks!

The mission of Let's Say Thanks is to provide a way for individuals across the country to recognize U.S. troops stationed overseas. By submitting a message through this site you have the opportunity to send a free personalized postcard greeting to deployed servicemen and women. The postcards, depicting patriotic scenes and hometown images, were selected from a pool of entries from children across the country. All you have to do is click on your favorite design and either select the message that best expresses your sentiment or draft a personal note. The postcards are then printed on the Xerox iGen3® Digital Production Press and mailed in care packages by military support organization [Give2TheTroops](http://www.give2thetroops.com)®.

Xerox is committed to helping people across the nation express their gratitude to our troops overseas. The launch of this program is aimed at reminding them how much Americans appreciate their service.

***This is a free service that Xerox is doing. How great would it be if every deployed service member got a card telling them how we appreciate them! Go to www.letsaythanks.com and start sending thanks to those who deserve it the most!!*

Will you give this to my Daddy?

Last week in Atlanta, I heard several people behind me beginning to clap and cheer. I immediately turned around and witnessed one of the greatest acts of patriotism I have ever seen. Moving thru the terminal was a group of soldiers in their cammies, as they began heading to their gate everyone (well almost everyone) rose abruptly to their feet with their hands waving and cheering. When I saw the soldiers, probably 30-40 of them, being applauded and cheered for, it hit me. I'm not alone. I'm not the only red blooded American who still loves this country and supports our troops and their families. Of course, I immediately stopped and began clapping for these young unsung heroes who are putting their lives on the line every day for us so we can go to school, work and home without fear or reprisal!

Just when I thought I could not be more proud of my country or of our service men and women a young girl, not more than 6 or 7 years old, ran up to one of the male soldiers. He kneeled down and said "hi," the little girl then asked him if he would give something to her daddy for her. The young soldier, he didn't look any older than maybe 22 himself, said he would try and asked what did she want to give to her daddy.

Then suddenly the little girl grabbed the neck of this soldier, gave him the biggest hug she could muster and then kissed him on the cheek. The mother of the little girl, who said her daughter's name was Courtney, told the young soldier that her husband was a Marine and had been in Iraq for 11 months now. As the mom was explaining how much her daughter, Courtney, missed her father, the young soldier began to tear up.

When this temporarily single mom was done explaining her situation, all of the soldiers huddled together for a brief second. Then one of the other servicemen pulled out a military looking walkie-talkie. They started playing with the device and talking back and forth on it. After about 10-15 seconds of this, the young soldier walked back over to Courtney, bent down and said this to her, "I spoke to your daddy and he told me to give this to you." He then hugged this little girl that he had just met and gave her a kiss on the cheek. He finished by saying "your daddy told me to tell you that he loves you more than anything and he is coming home very soon."

The mom at this point was crying almost uncontrollably and as the young soldier stood to his feet he saluted Courtney and her mom. I was standing no more than 6 feet away from this entire event unfolded.

As the soldiers began to leave, heading towards their gate, people resumed their applause. As I stood there applauding and looked around, there were very few dry eyes, including my own. That young soldier in one last act of selflessness turned around and blew a kiss to Courtney with a tear rolling down his cheek.

We need to remember every day all of our soldiers and their families and thank God for them and their sacrifices. At the end of the day, it's good to be an American.

(Author Unknown-taken from email forward)

Thank you to all service members and their families and the sacrifices that you have all made to insure the freedoms for all American citizens.

God bless you all!

7 Time-Savers for the Office: No More Late Nights at the Office!

How to work smarter during the day, so you can enjoy yourself at night.

By Sara Droman

The clock strikes five, but you're not even close to being done with your day. Meanwhile, Ms. Perfect in the next cube is scooping up her purse and bidding all a cheerful goodbye. Want to know her secrets to getting more work done in less time? Our experts can help.

1. Feeling Good? Get to Work!

Laura Stack, author of *Leave the Office Earlier*, says that one of the biggest ways that people waste time is by not matching their tasks to their energy level. "During peak energy periods, you should be working on complex tasks, like writing proposals or number crunching." Save the filing and answering e-mails for low-energy times. Unfortunately, Stack says that when office workers are in a good mood they tend to socialize. "That's when they want to do the fun stuff. Then they feel energy lag and say, 'I guess I should get to work.' So something that would have taken 30 minutes in a peak zone could take 90 minutes in a down time."

2. Know When to Pick Up the Phone

Communicating by e-mail can be a great time-saver. It can help you connect with someone who keeps a very different schedule, or inform the office chatterbox that the meeting is at three without signing on for 20 minutes of conversation. But Stack says that in many situations, sending an e-mail is the more time-consuming choice. "We talk a lot faster than we type," says Stack. "That's why I use the Rule of Three. If you have gone back and forth three times, pick up the phone." She also advises using the phone if you have something difficult or emotionally charged to say -- rather than composing 20 drafts to make sure you aren't misunderstood.

3. Have Your Bags Packed

If you do a lot of business traveling, take a tip from Niki Leondakis, the Chief Operating officer for Kimpton Hotels. Leondakis always keeps an extra set of all the basics -- toothpaste, makeup, running shoes -- in her suitcase. "This way, if I forget my face cream at the hotel, I won't be in a jam later," she says.

4. Sit Up Straight

Make your sure that your workplace is ergonomically correct -- with good lumbar support, comfortable hand positions, and no crossed legs! "To work efficiently, you have to be comfortable. If you aren't, you'll have to get up and take breaks more often," says Stack.

5. Minimize Interruptions

Arrange your workspace in a way that keeps socializing to a minimum. Stack suggests facing your chair away from doorways and hallways, and removing extra chairs from your office or cubicle. And turn off your cell phone! If you must, "Use it to check messages and to return truly urgent calls," says Alan Weiss, PhD, president of the Summit Consulting Group and author of *The Unofficial Guide to Power Managing*. Otherwise, your friends and family can wait until after 5:00. Similarly, segregate your work e-mail from your social e-mail. Start a separate e-mail account for personal matters -- including all those special offers e-mails from travel sites and your favorite retailers -- and ask friends and family members to e-mail you there exclusively. That way you can focus on your work during work hours, and do your socializing after hours, or during lunch.

6. Give It Five

If you're procrastinating on a big project, Stack suggests doing it for just five minutes. "By then you've already gathered your materials, and once you have that forward motion you'll realize it's not so bad," says Stack, who uses this ploy when trying to motivate to file. "I hate filing, but I know if I don't file regularly it gets out of control. So I'll do it for five minutes and will be amazed by how much I got done, and then I get a feeling of satisfaction."

7. Create an "Un-Do" List

We all have long lists of the stuff we have to do today. But Karen Salmansohn, author of *Ballsy: 99 Ways to Score Extreme Business Success*, says you can find more time in your day if you make a list of all the things you should *stop* doing. Are there tasks that can be delegated to an assistant or more junior employee? A contact who continually requests meetings and lunches but has yet to provide you with any meaningful new business or leads? Do you spend a lot of time gossiping, complaining, or doing someone else's job (and subsequently gossiping and complaining about it)? Identify the time drains in your day and scratch them off your to-do list. And then go home!

Let's Get ELECTRONIC!!

Most of you have already signed up to receive your *Minute by Minute* via email and, from what I have heard, REALLY ENJOY IT! The quality is better, pictures look awesome, you get it earlier, and you don't have to worry about the newsletter getting messed up through the mail.

For those of you who haven't sent me your email address to start receiving *Minute by Minute* via email, please get it to me ASAP so you can start enjoying it sooner.

Just email ARJones@co.randolph.nc.us and let me know you would like to begin receiving *Minute by Minute* electronically.

Also, keep those new ideas coming! I love getting input from you all. Not only does it get every single clerk involved in the newsletter that is supposed to be all about YOU, it also makes my job a lot easier!! 😊

Thanks for all you do, Clerks!!
Amanda Jones, Deputy Clerk
Randolph County